



Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

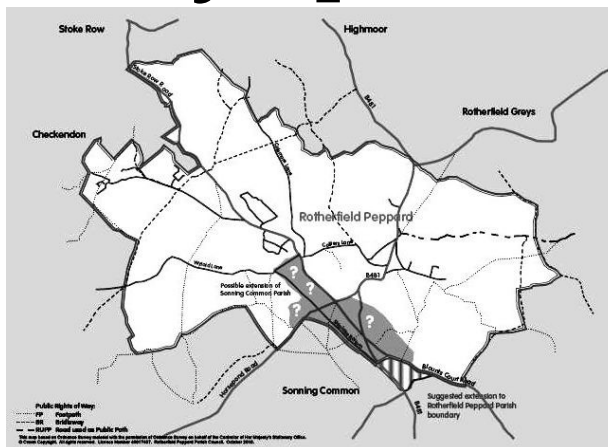
Parish Boundary Update

Winter 2013

A number of residents have expressed concerns about possible effects of the Community Governance Review being undertaken by South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC). Their major concern is over any changes to the Parish boundaries.

If changes are made to our boundaries, what effect will it have on residents? The main practical effects would be that a different Parish Council would be responsible and that the small element of Council Tax which pays for the Parish might change. For example, a Band D property paid £30.51 in Rotherfield Peppard and £53.75 in Sonning Common in the current year. Concern has been expressed of changes to postcodes or postal addresses: this is not the case. Houses in Rotherfield Peppard Parish have RG9 and RG4 postcodes and postal addresses of Rotherfield Greys, Sonning Common, Peppard Common, Kingwood and Wyfold as well as Rotherfield Peppard.

The Parish is generally the lowest tier of local government sitting below the District and the County; the council is elected to represent voters who live within it. Civil Parishes should not be confused with Ecclesiastical Parishes which divide a Diocese within the Church of England. Church Parishes are run by the Parochial Church Council. The last change to the civil Parish Boundary was in 2003 when the Wyfold Court Estate was moved into Peppard from Checkendon, although it still remains in the Checkendon Ecclesiastical



Parish. Our Church Parish extends south beyond Blackmore Lane in Sonning Common and east as far as Gillots Road along the Greys Road. You can find a map of this boundary at www.achurchnearyou.com/parishfinder.php; search for Rotherfield Peppard. The above map shows the civil Parish boundary which can also be found at www.rppc.org.uk. Electoral maps are at www.election-maps.co.uk

Another factor which comes into play with boundaries is the designation of 'settlements' by SODC. These include four towns (Henley, Wallingford, Thame and Didcot), twelve large villages (including Sonning Common) and a number of smaller villages including Peppard Common, Kingwood Common and Rotherfield Peppard. However there is no clearly defined boundary for these settlements – only a statement that the settlement should include all the contiguously built up area. These settlements have significance in the Planning

System as there are different rules for new housing for the different settlement types. So, for example, part of the new housing target for the period up to 2027 has been allocated to the large villages but none for the smaller villages.

Sonning Common is producing a Neighbourhood Plan under new planning legislation to exert some control over the new housing which it needs to plan for. Over a dozen sites had been identified by SODC as suitable for new housing in and around Sonning Common and one of these sites, known as SON13 – land to the north of Blounts Court Road, west of Johnson Matthey – is in Rotherfield Peppard Parish.

Discussions around the Neighbourhood Plan led Sonning Common Parish Council to suggest that its boundary could be further north and include some parts of Rotherfield Peppard. Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council suggested its boundary should include the triangle bounded by Peppard Road, Widmore Lane and Blounts Court Road.

Final Terms of Reference for the SODC Community Governance Review were approved at the SODC Council Meeting on 24th October and members of the public now have a chance to make suggestions and comments during the consultation period up to the end of January 2014. Comments can be sent to cgr@southandvale.gov.uk or write to CGR, Legal and Democratic Services, South Oxfordshire District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8ED.

David Hammond

Editorial

Proposed boundary changes are the hottest topic in Peppard today, and the significance is explained by Parish Council chairman David Hammond. The map provided by Mr Hammond illustrates his understanding of the proposal of the Sonning Common Parish Council to take in an area of Peppard that could include all of Shiplake Bottom, much of Stoke Row Road and all of Blounts Court Road, as far as Johnson Matthey. It also appears that Sonning Common might wish to expand into Chiltern Bank, as far as Wyfold Lane,

and adjoining land and dwellings across to the Stoke Row Road. If you have views on this topic, please do write to the SODC, as suggested above by Mr Hammond.

I will introduce myself as your new Editor, following Tony Treglown's move from the parish. My wife and I have lived in Peppard since 1976, and I am a motoring writer, 'semi retired'. I will take this first opportunity to wish all our readers a Happy Christmas, and a fine year in 2014.

Michael Cotton, Editor

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Editor: Michael Cotton,
59 Shiplake Bottom, Rotherfield Peppard, RG9 5HJ
e-mail: peppardnews@aol.com

www.PeppardNews.co.uk

Contributions accepted via e-mail or post to Michael Cotton

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Our Schools

Peppard School

In September we welcomed our new Headteacher, Mr Nick Steele, who says 'I've been very impressed with how eager everyone is to make positive changes to the school. The School Council have already made decisions on House Team names and have designed a new sports kit that will be worn in competitions we'll be entering this year. For me and the staff, our biggest aim for this year is to build a new curriculum for the school that will provide exciting opportunities and experiences for all pupils.'

Necessary building work was undertaken in the summer but sadly wasn't finished in time due to a technical hitch. Other work to level the ground between the buildings was done in October.

We have already completed both our residential trips; Year 5 went to Kilve Court in Somerset with Miss Tillotson and took part in various outdoor activities. By far the favourite was a stream walk with a large, deep, muddy pool at the end that they were allowed to jump in!

The Year 6 children have been on their trip to Manor Adventure in Shropshire, a fantastic site for outdoor adventures that we have used for the last 10 or so years. They had a wonderful time abseiling, rifle shooting, canoeing and hill walking. Miss Hudson and Miss Bryant were exhausted but totally impressed by the children's impeccable behaviour and their ability to rise to the challenge of whatever was thrown at them!

We were delighted with the amount of food, both fresh and dried, that the families brought in for our Harvest Service. The dried food was taken to Springwater Church and the fresh produce was delivered by the school Choir to Abbeycrest Residential Home in Sonning Common where they sang a few of the Harvest

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU
Phone: 01491 628354

Headteacher
Nick Steele

Chairman of the Governors
Christine Bradbury

songs for the residents. This was a huge success and they have been invited back to sing again at Christmas.

Other plans for the term are various sporting events, e.g. cross-country races, football tournaments and also our Year 6's will complete their cycling proficiency training.

Fiona Hilton

School Governor Wanted!

It is an exciting time at Peppard School and we need your help! We are looking to recruit new Governors from our local community.

Governors have a key role in the strategic development of our school. You don't have to be the parent of a child to be a governor; you just need to be willing to offer your expertise.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the role of governor please phone Fiona Hilton on 01491 628354.

Peppard Toddler Group

We said goodbye to committee members Katie Bayfield and Nathalie Doyelle at the end of last term and welcomed Emma Lawrence and Elizabeth Ballantyne who join our existing members Emma Toward, Julie Fuller, Jane Field and Caroline Jones. A big thank you to all these Mums for giving up their time, energy and enthusiasm.

We are a very friendly Mum-led group and welcome all family members and carers. We offer craft, play dough, dressing up, play house, book corner, baby corner, storytime and singing. We always break for snacks of fruit and plain biscuits for the children, and usually chocolate biscuits for the adults!

We welcome newcomers; contact me on 0118 972 3547, or just come along 09.45-11.45 Tuesday mornings, term time at Peppard War Memorial Hall.

Caroline Jones



The Toddler Group enjoying a Picnic

Peapods Growing in Peppard

Peapods' reputation is growing fast and many new families are coming highly recommended by other parents.

This term our topic has been autumn; the children have enjoyed using the natural resources they collected to make pictures for our wall, and learning about different leaves, nuts and seeds, and the native trees they come from.

We now have an excellent website so you can see what a unique setting and service we offer. Please visit

www.peapodsnurseryschool.com Contact me on 01491 628395 or email us

Louisa@peapodsnurseryschool.com

Louisa Hopcroft

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Our Young Achievers

Four Star Tabitha

After Oratory Prep School, 18 year old Tabitha Jones attended Queen Anne's Caversham where she achieved an amazing four A* at A level! Her subjects were biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. She has won a place on a four year degree course at Mansfield College, Oxford to read Materials Science, a combination of chemistry, physics and engineering. She had previously gained ten A* at GCSE level and tells me she has always been science oriented.



Living in Wyfold with her parents and younger brother, Tabitha is clearly an all rounder having been Head Girl at Queen Anne's and in the first team representing her school at lacrosse. She played the clarinet to Grade 6 and was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award after going on an expedition and also fundrais-

ing for the Sue Ryder Hospice.

Tabitha tells me she has enjoyed her time at Queen Anne's. She took part in a public speaking competition in 2011 that involved travelling to Canada to compete against young people from other English speaking countries and, as Head Girl, has been involved with talking to prospective parents about her school at Open Days and taking part in Senior Management Team meetings with the Head and other staff. In her free time Tabitha enjoys reading comedy, seeing her friends and going to the cinema.

As for the future Tabitha is uncertain what direction she will take; possibly doing a PhD, research, going into industry or teaching. Whatever she decides, on past results it looks as if she will have a promising career ahead of her.

Sue Nickson

Another Success for Peppard's Cricketing Trio

On 28th August Stewart Davison, Euan Brock and Tom Nugent played at Wormsley, Buckinghamshire in a one day competition. Their team won the Minor Counties Cricket Association Trophy very convincingly scoring 284 and bowling Shropshire out for 156. Says Stewart 'We had a great season with a very young team and, I think, surprised everyone how well we did, having such an inexperienced side.'

Sue Nickson

Henry's Award Winning Swim

Henry Bell, at 13, is the youngest son of Rebecca and Robert Bell and has lived all his life in Peppard. The family home has a swimming pool and his parents felt for safety reasons that it was important he could swim from an early age so he

started swimming lessons at just 5 months old. They could not know that swimming would become an important part of Henry's life.

After Sonning Common Primary School, Henry moved to Lord Williams's School in Thame. He trains at the Thame Leisure Centre and also with Nigel Downing, a triathlete and family friend. Rebecca describes them as having a special rapport.

This summer Henry was the only child out of 200 to compete in the Elite Category in the Padstow to Rock Swim in Cornwall. He had to swim one mile across the Camel estuary in less than 30 minutes. He did it in 20 minutes and came in seventh winning the Sarah Hawkins Trophy. Apart from his personal achievement Henry's swim raised £800 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. He also competed in the Henley Classic and Henley Mile events.

Well done Henry! Remember the name; we might see him competing in Open Water Swimming in the Olympics in years to come.

Sue Nickson



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The Councils

David Hammond, and his colleagues on Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, would like to wish all readers of *Peppard News* a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

New Councillor

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome Lee Rawlings who joined us in October. He runs the Greys Green Golf Course and has spent a lot of time in the Parish over the last four years. He wants to have an active role within the community and help others to enhance the environment in which we all live.

Hedges and Trees Overhanging Roads and Footpaths

2013 will be remembered as a wonderful year for plants of all sorts, with bumper fruit and vegetable crops and vigorous growth on trees and shrubs of all types. One of the consequences of this has been an increase in the number of complaints the Parish Council has received about trees and hedges growing over highway verges and footpaths.

As a general rule, responsibility for such trees and hedges lies with the owner of the adjoining land. Whilst Oxfordshire County Council carries out regular mowing of roadside verges, the landowner should make sure that all highways and footpaths are kept clear. The guidance is that there should be a clearance of 5.2m over the whole width of the highway and 2.5m over public footpaths. If this seems excessive on some of our smaller, more rural roads, just imagine a fire engine needing to get access. Obstructions can also cause significant safety issues when cars have to move across the centre of the road to get past the obstruction. On footpaths alongside roads, overgrowing hedges can force people into the road. On countryside paths, they can make paths difficult to walk on – especially when there are other obstructions like puddles.

Hedges and trees are also important wildlife habitats. Care should always be taken during the bird nesting period from 1st March – 31st July when birds' nests are protected by law. However, careful cutting by hand can still be carried out.

Parish Council

Chairman: David Hammond
01491 628774 / 07798 763795

Parish Clerk: Linda Collison

7 Grange Avenue, Rotherfield Peppard,
Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 5LD
01491 629676

e-mail: clerk@rppc.org.uk

Website: www.rppc.org.uk

SODC Councillors: Paul Harrison
0118 972 2665

& Alan Rooke—01491 572919

OCC Councillor: David Bartholomew
07769 808773

e-mail:

david.bartholomew@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council usually meets on 2nd Monday of the month at 19.30 in the Pavilion. Parishioners may attend and observe, and may briefly raise issues of concern to them. All may attend intermediate planning meetings as well - see Diary for dates and times.

To avoid some of the problems that have occurred this year, the Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to consider hedges and trees on the boundaries of their land and plan to ensure that they are cut in such a way that even with summer growth, they don't cause an obstruction. The winter months may be a good time to take professional advice on when a hedge needs to be cut back significantly to achieve this in such a way that doesn't kill the hedge. Aggressive cutting on one side can be matched with less aggressive cutting on the other side to maintain viability – and then the second side tackled the following year.

There is a full explanation of landowner responsibilities at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/roadside-trees-hedges-and-ditches

Peppard Wood

The Parish Council is in discussion with the Woodland Trust over the management of Peppard Wood which can be accessed from Wyfold Lane and sits behind the houses in Dove Lane, Stevens Lane and Esther Carling Lane. The wood was established as part of the conditions associated with building the houses in the mid 1990s.

The Woodland Trust own the woodland and are looking to engage local groups and individuals in the on-going management of their smaller sites across the country. The proposal under discussion is for the woodland to be leased to the Parish Council who would then maintain it. The Sonning Common Green Gym have agreed to support this but major work like the twice yearly mowing of the paths would still be undertaken by a contractor. The conditions of the proposed lease would preserve the site as an amenity woodland and continue to provide public access.

What do you think? If you have views on this or would like to support the initiative in a more direct way, please contact the Parish Council.

Volunteers Needed

The Pavilion and Sports Field on the Stoke Row Road are, in many ways, at the centre of our community. The regular cricket matches have now been joined by regular football with Rotherfield United using the ground for an additional pitch. There are also other regular users of the pavilion who enjoy its lovely setting and cosy atmosphere. It was built as a memorial to those local people who fell in the Second World War.

The Charity which owns the property was established by a Deed in 1946. The Parish Council is the sole Trustee of the Charity and meets many of the costs of running the building. It also employs a caretaker/cleaner. The Cricket Club carry out some maintenance on the pavilion as well as ensuring the ground is fit for cricket matches.

However, there are many tasks that need to be undertaken to ensure that the Pavilion can continue to be maintained and developed for the benefit of all the community. The Parish Council is therefore looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours each month and would be willing to join the management committee and help with maintenance, publicity, general management, future development plans and possible fund raising. If you would be willing to give some time to help support this key asset in the Parish, please contact the Parish Clerk, Linda Collison, on 01491 629676.



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Peppard People

Nick Steele

On 2nd October we interviewed Mr Steele, our new Headteacher. We put together some interesting questions hoping to find out some serious secrets.



Mr Nick Steele, Headteacher of Peppard School

We started off with some easy questions and found out his favourite subject is maths because he said he was very good mentally with his numbers and he enjoys the challenge. We moved on to ask him about his favourite sports which was tennis, he said that it was because it didn't involve as much running which is good because he can't run as well as he used to. Looking back we asked him what he wanted to be when he was younger, when he was our age he wanted to be a professional footballer, but when he was sixteen and taking his exams he wanted to be an architect.

We dug a bit deeper and asked about what he likes and doesn't like. He told us that he likes doing front crawl and reading crime books. When we asked him what he didn't like Mr Steele was very firm and

said BROAD BEANS!! Because he doesn't like the texture, the taste and they don't look very appetising.

Our final question was 'if you were stranded on a desert island what two things would you want to take with you and who would you want to be stranded with?' The person he would like to take with him was Bear Grylls and he would take a large box of matches and some kind of knife. We have learnt some interesting facts about our new Headteacher.

Harry Ayers & Darcey Smith
Junior Peppard News Editors

Snippets

Horticultural Society

Come along and enjoy two talks arranged by the Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society: on Tuesday 14th January an informative talk and illustrations on 'All about Orchids' by Malcolm Brownsword; on Tuesday 11th February an informative talk and display on 'Berkshire Bonsai' by Keith Winter. Both talks will be from 19.30-21.00 in Peppard War Memorial Hall. Refreshments available and non members welcome.

Rod Norman

Benefice Confirmation

On Sunday 29th September at All Saints' Church, a Benefice Communion Service was held, incorporating a baptism and confirmation. We welcomed the Right Revd Dr Anthony Russell who was Bishop of Dorchester from 1998 – 2000, and Bishop of Ely from 2000 until his retirement in 2010.

Margaret Woodward

Peppard Revels Film Club

The new season got off to a flying start when we had 90 people sitting down to supper and to watch *Chocolat*. In fact we had so many requests for tickets we had to operate a waiting list and some people were disappointed. In order to cater for these sorts of numbers we now have a cooks' group of eight. The voting took place for the films for next year – there was a list of 30 to choose from, the details of which were pre-circulated by email. The details of the successful films are on the website (www.peppardrevels.org.uk) and on the enclosed insert. If you are aiming to come in future, book early to avoid disappointment!

John Hasler

South Chiltern Choral Society

Christmas carols with a difference? There will be a performance of *Born in Bethlehem on Christmas Night* at Chiltern Edge School on Saturday 14th December at 19.30 and on Sunday 15th at 14.00. The performance features Christmas spirituals with a jazz trio, arranged by Gwyn Arch, and carols for the choir and audience featuring Sonning Common Primary School choir. Tickets: £12 including refreshments, half price under-18s. Contact Mary Esslemont on 0118 987 4346, or www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

All Saints' Harvest Lunch

About 45 parishioners and their families enjoyed a lunch together in September following the Harvest Festival Service.

This was our second Bring and Share Lunch. There was an incredible variety of food and both the quality and quantity were excellent - not to mention the wine. A retiring collection was made to cover the incidental costs with a surplus of £161 donated to Peppard Relief in Need.

Rob Crawshaw

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Our Village

Uncertain Future for Peppard Lunch Club

At our September lunch we had to say goodbye to our chief cook, Ann Bouman, who after twenty years of organising her team and producing wonderful lunches every month, has now moved up country to live nearer to her daughter. The problems are increased by the fact that two more of the volunteers in the cooking team who have, like Ann, served many years are retiring at the end of this year. We are also short staffed in the team that lays tables and greets and serves members, as two of our volunteers are moving out of the area.

On the plus side, we are very pleased to welcome Jenny Cole who has joined us recently. She's doing sterling work cooking and we hope she'll be able to stay with us, but she must have a team to support her.

Short term, to reduce the pressures on the cooks, we have decided to cancel the November lunch and concentrate on the much more elaborate Christmas one which is, as usual, very early in December. We can manage this, but we desperately need new volunteers if we are to stay in business in the New Year.

Peppard Lunch Club has been serving the community for over thirty years, providing a tasty lunch and an enjoyable social occasion for many older people in and around the village, especially those living on their own. It would be very sad if we had to give up, so I am appealing for volunteers to keep the club going for years to come. If you think you might be able to help, please contact me on 0118 972 2808.

Sally Longhurst

Health Walks

With winter upon us it's good to wrap up warm and get out into the beautiful local countryside for a brisk walk. The Health Walks timetable continues through the winter with a programme of walks to suit all levels of fitness. After a short break for Christmas and New Year the walks continue into 2014 with different starting places and new routes (weather permitting). Join us to walk off your Christmas pudding!

The timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable. If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on 0118 972 2527

Rosemary Dunstan



Commons: Kingwood & Peppard Commons Group

After a wonderful summer, we are now well into autumn, with the changing weather that this brings. We have had some quite heavy rainfall and this often results in fallen trees, which seem invariably to choose to land across pathways. If you notice a fallen tree, please do tell us and we will go and assess the situation and make the necessary arrangements for it to be removed. If you can send us a photo that helps pinpoint the location, or describe the location, that will be helpful. Very often this can be dealt with by the Green Gym or by a KPCV work party. There are a number of power-lines that cross the commons and likewise, if you see a tree that looks as if it could be in danger of falling onto the cables, again, please let us know and we will get the professionals in.

We have been working on further restoration of the top common edge along Colliers Lane, where the grassland had become badly eroded over the years by vehicular traffic. A second raised verge has been successfully created on the north side and is already fast turning green and blending in. We are now turning our attention to repairing the initial raised verge opposite Peppard Cottage. Many people are simply unwilling to give way for a few seconds for vehicles to pass by along this narrow lane - preferring to drive up onto the raised verge, but we are committed to protecting the common from damage.

The Green Gym will be working on Peppard Common on 30th November from

09.30-12.30 (park at Peppard crossroads) - raking and stacking on the ski slope, for which we are very grateful.

The KPCV group continues its excellent work on our commons and currently the emphasis is on working in the glades on Kingwood in a southerly direction. Hopefully, you can see the difference! We recognise that some people cannot always commit to Saturdays for joining the work parties, so we are proposing a second monthly volunteer party on a weekday - Tuesday morning could be an option - for some light scrub-bashing! Again, please get in touch.

Contact details: clerk@nettlebed-commons.org

Nigel Wooding

Library News

We're going to have a special Christmas storytime on Saturday 21st December. There will be stories at 10.00 followed by Christmas crafts for children under 10. We also hope to have seasonal cakes and drinks for sale!

We will close for Christmas at 17.00 on Monday 23rd December and open again at 14.00 on Thursday 2nd January. We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Date for your diary: Saturday 8th February is National Libraries Day. We have not yet decided what we'll be doing, but we will be doing something special! Phone the library 0118 972 2448 after Christmas for more details.

Rosemary Dunstan

RSCM Choirs' Festival

In October, Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) affiliated choirs from the Diocese of Oxford, returned to Dorchester Abbey for the Annual Choirs' Festival. There were about 300 singers from various choirs, who were directed by Daniel Hyde, Organist and Informator Choristarum of Magdalen College Oxford, and accompanied on the organ by Thomas Allery, Assistant Organist at Magdalen College.

Margaret Woodward



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Not New Fishing Reels - It's New FISHing Wheels!

Yes, the new mini bus for the FISH Volunteer Centre has just arrived and it is terribly smart. This stylish blue bus with panoramic windows really stands out. Slightly bigger than the old one, it has 16 comfortable passenger seats. It is bursting with loads of extras and aids to help make things easier and more comfortable for the passengers (and driver). Most of the technical extras were paid for by our many kind sponsors whose names and logos will appear on the sides when the sign writing is done. Air conditioning was top of the request list and there are also low steps at the entrance, parcel racks, special air suspension on the rear axle, shopping containers and, of course, an electro/hydraulic platform lift for the disabled and wheelchairs. Look out for it and give a wave when it drives past!

Other news is that we always keen to recruit new volunteers. We are particularly short of car drivers to take people to hospital, doctors and other essential journeys and also to help in the office. So if you have a spare couple of hours a week let us know. The FISH office is open weekdays 9:30—11:30 in Sonning Common Village Hall Tel: 0118 972 3986. We look forward to hearing from you.

A very happy Christmas to you all.

Fred Nickson, Chairman

Peppard War Memorial Hall

Since the last news report we have updated our website and developed a new five year development/maintenance plan, details of which can be viewed on our website:

www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.com.

We are always looking for new groups to use this important facility and all our contact details are on the website if you require further information. We are willing to assist you in any way we can.

Fund raising for the hall is important; the committee have several ideas but if you have any great ideas for such events we would be pleased to discuss them with you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Clive Mills, Chairman

New Business Collaboration

A new networking group has been set up called Sonning Common Business Collaboration (SCBC) The group welcomes any sole trader or small business that is run in Sonning Common or surrounding villages.

Set up by Kathryn from Kathryn Fell Photography the aim is to get the local business community together, face to face, to offer help, support and advice. Each meeting will have a topic / presentation aimed at helping support the growth of businesses, such as Social media and Marketing. Rob and Ellie Blues from The Butchers Arms on Blounts Court Road are kindly hosting the meetings on a Monday morning every six weeks. For further information please contact me – kathrynfellphotography@hotmail.co.uk

Kathryn Fell

Greys Court

The mansion will be festively dressed based on illustrations done by Laurence Irving. We will be open from 1st-23rd December 12.00-15.00 daily. Both the shop and the tea room will be open for some warm cups of tea and Christmas shopping.

Louise Walker

All Saints' Team Rides and Strides Again

On 14th September a team from All Saints' Church set out to maintain their outstanding record in support of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride fund-raising event. The team has raised over £1700. Half of this is retained by the Trust for distribution to Oxfordshire churches in need of repair, and the other half will come back to All Saints' to be spent on the maintenance of our historic village Church.

Ian Fraser

Press Button B

After many hours of grinding and rubbing, scratching and scraping by members of the Peppard Flat Earth Society, all the flaky old pink paint has been removed from the telephone kiosk on the Common. Now with a new set of glazing panels and two coats of PO red paint it has been restored to its former glory and stands resplendent on the corner of Church Lane outside the School.

Alan Smith

The Telephone Box

It's probably their final task.
So would it be too much to ask
As payback for their years of toil
When they shuffle off their mortal coil,
A monument that retains.
All the old boys' last remains?

One by one a little urn,
When it is the oldies turn,
A place where they all could cache,
Little pots, all full of ash.

A unique monument, bright red,
Where they could be, when they are dead.
Then all of them would know their fate
When they're past their sell by date.

It is of course anticipated,
That they would all be duly cremated.
So an exception would be granted
For those who would be sooner planted.
In this case a little plaque,
In sombre hue... fixed to the back.

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All Saints'

Church of England

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Rector: Revd Canon Graham Foulis Brown 0118 972 3987
 Churchwardens: Adrienne Heriot 01491 629254
 Margaret Woodward 0118 972 2296

He was well known for his love of donkeys and famously had two, Polly and Lucy, roaming in the garden at the Rectory. Polly attended church on Christmas Eve to the delight of children in the congregation. Indeed, there was a natural and affectionate rapport between Bob and children. Many people remember that the donkeys, having spotted the Rectory front door ajar, would make haste up the steps and go straight into the study where they would help with the sermons!

During his twenty six years as Rector of Rotherfield Peppard, three major projects were accomplished which should stand the test of time: the old Parish Room was sold and a new Parish Room built in 1982; a new organ was installed in 1993 and, in 1999, the chancel was re-roofed.

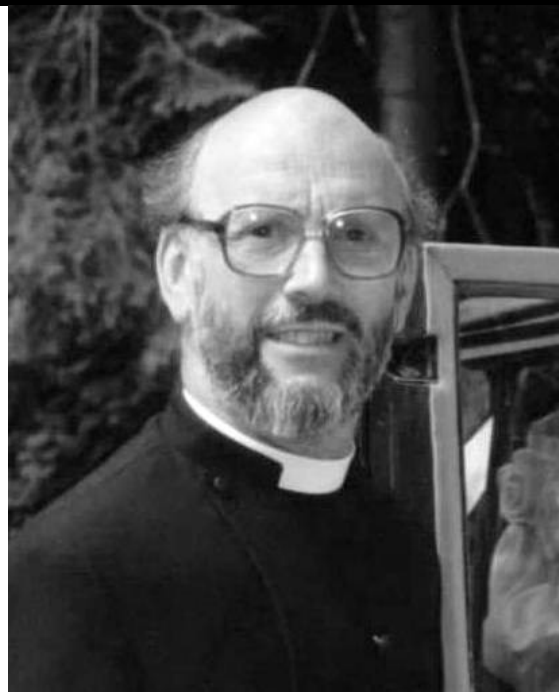
Bob was a man who gave his time and love to all who knew him and spent many hours visiting the sick and lonely. He was always available to those in need. He was hugely respected by his parishioners and much loved by his family and friends. He will be greatly missed by his wife Ann, three children Simon, Chris and Fiona and six grandchildren. His funeral was held on Tuesday 29th October at All Saints' Church.

A Priest of the People

The Reverend Basil Butler-Smith, who died on 16th October, was born on 9th April 1930 in London, the only son of an English clergyman and a Greek mother. His only language until the age of five was Greek. His parents moved to Ipswich which is where his education began. At 14, he was sent to Lancing College in Sussex and from there went on to do his national service in the Royal Artillery. He then joined the Metropolitan Police in London where he spent a lot of his time as a Greek interpreter at the Old Bailey.

On his marriage to Ann, 'Bob' worked for Pan American Airways at Heathrow before establishing his own air courier business. In 1965, he decided to follow the three generations before him and enter the ministry of the Church of England. He trained at Bishops' College, Hertfordshire. In December 1967 he was ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford before taking his first post, a curacy at St Michaels Church, Bray near Maidenhead. Having served his initial three years at Bray, he and the family, moved to Suffolk to be near his parents where his father had his own parish in Kesgrave near Ipswich. Bob was the Rector of two parishes, Norton and Tostock and was also a chaplain at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

In 1976, following the death of his parents, he was fortunate enough to be offered the living of Rector of Rotherfield Peppard and that of Chaplain of Peppard Hospital, a role which he loved and where he spent many hours with the patients. In



Bob Butler-Smith

1979, he also took on the responsibility of Rector of Rotherfield Greys.

During the very happy and fulfilled twenty six years as Rector of the Rotherfield parishes, Bob conducted hundreds of weddings and baptisms including those of his own children and grandchildren and became a well-loved and much respected figure in the community. In 1992 he was diagnosed with cancer which he fought with remarkable stoicism, winning his battle and making a full recovery. He continued as Rector for another 10 years, only retiring in 2002 when he and Ann moved to Sonning Common.

Ann Butler-Smith

From the Rectory

Every year at Christmas we hear why Joseph and Mary, who lived in Nazareth, were many miles away in Bethlehem when Jesus was born. There was a census and Joseph had to register in his home city. There must have been many family reunions at that time, for people had come in from all over the place to register in Bethlehem excluding Mary and Joseph. Before we bank up the fires and enjoy our family reunions this year, let's remember those in the same plight as the Holy Family were and do about it what we can.

Graham

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Carol Concert

On Sunday 8th December at 17.30, there will be Christmas music by the Pangbourne & District Silver Band, a sing-along with favourite carols and St Michael's Choir. Refreshments, prize draw. Admission: £5 lucky programmes for adults in advance or at door, children free. Details from 0118 972 4249 or Parish Newsletter on www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

Christmas at St Michael's	
Sunday 8 th December	
17.30	Carol Concert of Christmas Music by the Pangbourne & District Silver Band and St Michael's Choir
Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24 th December	
18.00	Mass for families with children
20.30	Christmas Carols
21.00	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day – Wednesday 25 th December	
10.30	Morning Mass

St Michael's Church Hall

At the rear of St Michael's Catholic Church, Peppard Road, Sonning Common, is a light airy hall, with excellent facilities, including chairs, tables, heating, kitchen, updated toilet facilities and car park. It is available to hire daytimes and evenings at competitive rates. Please contact the Church Office on 0118 9723418 or email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk.



Revd Chris Lewis
 0118 972 4519
www.springwater.org.uk

Dark Nights, Strange Lights and Heavenly Illumination

Having spent most of my years working as a pastor either in towns, or cities, where the street lights were lit during the hours of darkness, it was quite a shock to find myself ministering in a rural setting where street lighting is either at a minimum or non-existent, so it took some time to get accustomed to living on a road with

no street lights. It was spooky the first time I saw a bright light moving toward me in the dark, only to discover as the light got larger, that it was a human wearing a torch strapped to their forehead. I have noticed how folks turn on their mobile phones to illuminate their way, dog-walkers carry torches, and strangest of all I saw a small dog wearing a dog collar with a torch attached to it swinging like a pendulum as it padded down the road.

There are times, during Autumn and Winter nights, I feel like I have been transported into another world, a world where darkness reigns and light is rare.

This is no surprise to me because I live in a spiritually darkened world, where wickedness prospers, evil lurks in the shadows, and sin lives in the hearts of men. When I think of Christmas I am reminded of the reason for the season, Jesus Christ, who left His heaven, wrapped Himself in human flesh, and as the light of the world, pierced the darkness, conquered sin, crushed evil, defeated death, triumphed over the grave, and through His victorious resurrection, shone His light into the hearts of men so they too can shine in the darkness.

I need no other light to illuminate my way spiritually because I have the radiance of Christ within, but I will remember to carry a torch as I walk at night, or better still, someone may give me a Christmas gift of a strap-on head light, or should I ask for the designer dog-collar model with built-in swinging torch? Oh, such fun! Have an illuminating Christmas

Revd. Chris Lewis

Christmas Services at Springwater	
Sunday 15 th December 10.30-11.30	Family Nativity Service
Sunday 22 nd December 10.30-12.00	Christmas Carol Service
Tuesday 24 th December - Christmas Eve 18.30-20.00	Christingle Service followed by Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Drinks
Wednesday 25 th December - Christmas Day 10.30-11.30	Christmas Day Celebration

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Clubs and Societies

1st Peppard Guides

Part of our group went to a festival camp called Wellies & Wristbands over the August bank holiday weekend; lots of adventurous activities but also hot tubs, cinemas, inflatable bouncy games and live music every night – a brilliant time had by all. Our first stay away trip and thanks to gift aid and the Chiltern Edge Community Association we were able to buy three tents for the girls as well as a large leaders' tent. Very pleased!

This term we are focusing on a Girls in Action project as well as a Think Pink evening, Halloween party and a Wildlife challenge.

Our waiting list is getting longer by the week; we would love more adult helpers to help our friendly bunch. Any enquiries please email me on Squirreljo@yahoo.ie

Jo Waugh

Wyfold RDA Christmas Celebration

Wyfold Riding for the Disabled Group are holding their very popular Christmas Celebration this year on Saturday, 7th December from 17.00-19.00 at their stables and centre at Kingwood. There will be all the usual attractions, including the children's nativity and Father Christmas in his chariot, together with some new entertainments, all accompanied by the ever popular Woodley Concert Band, who will lead the carol singing. Remember those amazing and hugely successful Paralympics last year? Many of the equestrian competitors started their riding at RDA. Please help us to help more.

Tickets at £5 (children under 12 are free) can be obtained from Roger Hadaway – rc.hadaway@btinternet.com, tel 01491 681273, from any member of Wyfold RDA or on the gate.

Roger Hadaway

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

Our seven teams have all made positive starts in the local League. The A team sees Jason Roberts joining up with Malcolm Gregory and Keith Swain in Division 1 and they should be safely in mid-table. The B team are also in Division 1 but have not called upon top player, Simon Berry, yet. As a result they have lost their opening four matches but there have been encouraging signs from Jeremy Willis and Nigel Maltby to give some hope of avoiding the drop.

The C team are near the top of Division 2 after three wins from three. Youngsters Jon Abbot and Danny Dockree have taken the step up in their stride with the more experienced Matt Stone, Mark Corbett and Brian Meheux; all playing well. Derek Wavell, Anthony Reeve and new recruit, Alan Mollett, have the D team top of Division 4. In the same division the E team are mid-table with Dave Aust and Mike Cassereley in good form, while the promoted F team of Matt Tarrant, Angus Jones, Julian James, Derek Maltby and Steve Knott have one win under their belts.

In Division 5 the G team have given senior league debuts to a number of youngsters in Joe Barraclough, Harry Sayers, Oliver Sayers and Thomas Perkins. All have performed well with the team managing a fine first win in a recent match.

We continue to run junior coaching activities on Friday evenings. Anyone interested in these junior sessions of playing senior league matches can contact me on n.maltby587@btinternet.com or 0118 9463191.

Nigel Maltby

Peppard Cricket Club

Our 1st XI finished a creditable fifth place in the Berkshire Cricket League's Premier Division, while the 2nd XI unfortunately lost their battle with relegation and will compete in Division 3 next year. Andy Watts was the leading scorer in the Premier Division, and in the process passed 11,000 runs in the Berkshire Cricket League. Andy also spent time masterminding the junior section. Another notable performer was Roy Hayden who extended his total of league wickets to 877.

The first Peppard Cricket Club Junior Fun Day was held in September, celebrating the first full season of the junior section which has been a great success. Cricket challenges were held and there was plenty of entertainment, also a barbecue superbly managed by our South African 'BBQ Master' Riaan Ackerman. Medals and awards were presented to the Under 11 squad who won their division in the Berkshire Youth Cricket League.



Junior Fun Day

End of season work was completed in record time by a working party of 10 volunteers who helped to re-seed the pitch and spread two tons of loam on the square. All that remains is our annual dinner in January and the AGM in February, before the start of the 2014 season.

Ronnie Brock, Chairman

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Peppard Relief in Need

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If you know someone who could do with a little financial help to get them through a crisis, (or you need help yourself) please let us know.

Your call will be dealt with in **total confidence - just telephone**

Sue Nickson (0118 972 4520) or Pat Fraser (01491 629631)

Peppard Bowls Club

Although we are now in the 'closed' season for lawn bowls, activity still goes on at the club. A large band of volunteers, together with Andy, our new contractor, put the green 'to bed' on a warm and sunny September day. A willing group from the Green Team diligently continue to care for the green during the winter months. Other members meet monthly for a Scrabble afternoon, take part in Short Mat Bowls locally and play Indoor League matches at Rivermead and Whiteknights. The Club was represented at the Casino Evening which took place in the War Memorial Hall in November. A week later trophies were presented at our Annual Dinner at Badgemore Golf Club – an event which we all enjoy in a fine location.

If you would like to be part of all this then please consider joining our club in 2014 – as Membership Secretary, I would be pleased to hear from you Tel: 0118 924 2617.

Jennifer Wingrove

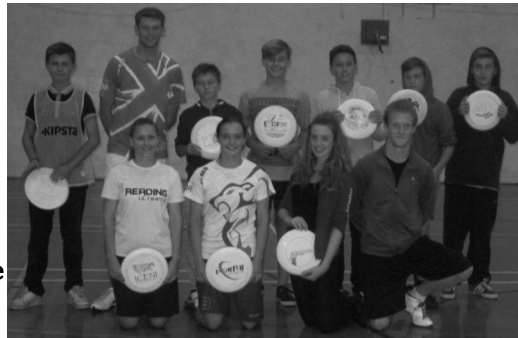
Lions Club

The Goring, Woodcote and District Lions Club will run its 30th annual Charity Road Run on Sunday 5th January, starting at Woodcote Village Hall. Peppard is within the Lions' region and competitors from our parish are welcome. Funds raised will go to the Alzheimer's Society, leading the fight against demetia. The entry fee is £15 when paid in advance (£13 for affiliated Club runners), and entries on the day will be priced at £17. Contact Alan Lovegrove on 01491 836874, or Alan Wright on 0845 833 9837, or e-mail: info@lions-gwd.org.uk. The minimum age is 15 and there is a prize for Juniors under the age of 16. Prizes also for first Veteran (age 40+), first Senior Veteran (50+) and first Vintage Veteran (60+).

Club SC

Readipop is holding six weeks of music sessions, which will include a Ukelele Orchestra, Music Technology and Build a Band. We were identified as a 'cold spot' for music in Oxfordshire so we have teamed up with Readipop to start this new exciting venture providing musical opportunities.

After a very successful Ultimate Frisbee taster session, Reading Ultimate, in conjunction with Club SC, is starting a Youth Club Team! Ultimate Frisbee is a high speed team game where the aim is to gain possession of the disc in an end-zone by throwing it to receivers.



Ultimate Frisbee Youth Club Team

We are inviting all 13-18 year olds to the club: Tuesdays 19.00-20.00 at Chiltern Edge School. £3 a session (first taster session free)

One final note, at the AGM I was made Chairman of Club SC Management Committee

Carol Viney

Peppard WI

I think our politicians would be delighted with 93% of people voting: our members did just that. From the results, our efficient Returning Officer compiled pie charts showing the direction that members would like to see the institute moving.

At our Bring & Share Lunch in October, decisions were made on the way forward. In the coming months the committee will endeavour to implement a number of the positive suggestions made by members. In this way we plan to meet the needs of our members, retain the best of Peppard WI traditions while ensuring that it is fit for purpose in our rapidly changing world.

Our August outing saw us in Oxford where we split into small groups to explore, again, areas of the city which we may not have visited for many years. Some of us revisited Oxford prison and the castle, others enjoyed the open-top bus tour, visited museums or enjoyed tea at the Randolph.

Now we settle into our winter meetings and will welcome anyone who is interested in our guests speakers: Alan MacGurk on A Magic Christmas Party, Molly Lindlaw on A History of Peppard and John Sumpter on Toads in Oxfordshire. See Peppard Diary for dates.

Irene Lindsay

Circle Dancing

If you want to keep active but don't fancy getting out in the wet and cold, then come and join us; it's not as mysterious as it may appear! Many of the dances are from different parts of the world; Israel, Eastern Europe, South America. Some are modern choreographies to classical melodies or popular tunes, some stately, some with a brisker step, but all exercising the body and the mind. The titles can be intriguing; Faithful Moon, Cloud Serpent, Braid of Thyme, and the dances can be more complex, or easy. You join in or opt out as you choose. First time free; why not give it a try? Every first Sunday of the month, 15.30-17.00 (including tea break!) at Christ the King Hall, Sedgewell Rd, Sonning Common. Tel: 01491 874220

Ros Jennings

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Peppard Diary



DECEMBER			FEBRUARY		
Sun	1	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00	Sun	5	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon	2	SC Business Collaboration Group/see page 7 for details	Mon	6	Peppard School term begins
Wed	4	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 9722808			Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
Sat	7	Kingwood/Peppard Comm Vols/01491 641199	Wed	8	WI/History of Peppard/Mem Hall/14.30
		Wyfold RDA Christmas Celebrations/17.00-19.00	Mon	13	RPPC Meeting/19.45/Planning/21.30/Pavilion
Mon	9	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55			SC Business Collaboration Group/see page 7 for details
		RPPC Meeting/19.30/Planning/21.30/Pavilion	Tue	14	Hort Soc/Growing Hardy Orchids/Mem Hall/19.30
Tue	10	Henley Choral Soc Carol Concert/St Mary's Henley/19.30/01491572795	Wed	15	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 9722808
Wed	11	WI/Magic Christmas Party/Mem Hall/14.30	Fri	17	Peppard Revels Film Club/Room With a View/Mem Hall/19.00
Sat	14	Sue Ryder Sale/10.30-12.30	Mon	20	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
		S Chiltern Choral Soc/Christmas Concert/CE Sch/01189874346	Sat	25	RPPC/Planning/10.00/Pavilion
Sun	15	S Chiltern Choral Soc/Christmas Concert/CE Sch/01189874346			Henley Choirs' Festival/St Mary's Henley
Tue	17	Peppard Toddler Group/Christmas Party/term ends	FEBRUARY		
		All Saints' Choir at the Unicorn/19.45	Sat	1	Kingwood/Peppard Comm Vols/01491 641199
Thu	19	Peppard School Christingle/All Saints/18.30	Sun	2	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Fri	20	Peppard School term ends	Mon	3	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
		Peapods Nursery Christmas party	Sat	8	National Libraries Day
Sat	21	Under 10s Christmas Storytime/SC Library/10.00	Mon	10	RPPC Meeting/19.30/Planning/21.30/Pavilion
		RPPC/Planning/10.00/Pavilion	Tue	11	Hort Soc/Intro to Bonsai/Mem Hall/19.30
Mon	23	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55	Wed	12	WI/Toads of Oxfordshire/Mem Hall/14.30
		SC Library closes 17.00	Fri	14	Peppard School terms ends
JANUARY			Mon	17	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
Thu	2	SC Library opens 14.00	Wed	19	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 9722808
Sat	4	Kingwood/Peppard Comm Vols/01491 641199	Fri	21	P R Film Club/French Lieutenant's Woman/Mem Hall/19.00
Sun	5	Lions 10K Charity Road Race/01491 836874	Sat	22	RPPC/Planning/10.00/Pavilion

The Peppard News Team would like to wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Angela, Ian, Jennifer, Mike, Rita & Sue



CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Services at All Saints'			
24 th December – Christmas Eve		25 th December – Christmas Day	
17.30	Nativity Tableau	09.00	Holy Communion
21.00	Holy Communion	11.00	Seven Lessons and Carols

Sunday Services at All Saints'	DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY				NOTES	
	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16		23
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A Advent Carol Service B Benefice Eucharist at Kidmore End ast 11.00 C Festal Evensong for Epiphany D Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Kidmore End at 18.30
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓	B		✓		✓		✓		✓	
10.30 Matins	✓					✓				✓				
10.30 Family Service			✓					✓				✓		
10.30 Sunday School		✓					✓				✓			
18.30 Evensong	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Sunday Services at Springwater
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